The Dallas Morning News

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IMMIGRATION

High price to pay for lying

Woman likely to lose U.S. citizenship for false answers in bid to stay

By KEVIN KRAUSE and DIANNE SOLIS
Staff Writers

When single mother Lilla Haiddar arrived in the U.S. from Afghanistan with her two boys to escape Taliban oppression, she embellished her story in her bid to stay.

LILLA HAIDDAR, a former Army interpreter, has raised two sons in the U.S.

Nearly 19 years later, she will probably be stripped of her U.S. citizenship because of those lies.

A federal jury in Dallas convicted the Arlington woman on Monday of three counts, including committing lies of omission on two passport applications by not listing a previous name. The more serious charge of obtaining citizenship or naturalization unlawfully carries with it mandatory denaturalization, officials say.

Haiddar, a former U.S. Army interpreter, raised two sons in the U.S. and had a job at DFW International Airport for more than three years, helping travelers. Her conviction is punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to $750,000. It also paves the way for Haiddar, 57, to be deported.

Her successful prosecution appears to be part of a stepped-up effort by the Trump administration to strip citizenship from naturalized Americans for a variety of infractions, including lying on government forms and to immigration officials.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, a court may revoke naturalization through a civil or criminal proceeding if their citizenship was "obtained through fraud or misrepresentation." The Justice Department has filed a total of 228 civil "denaturalization" cases

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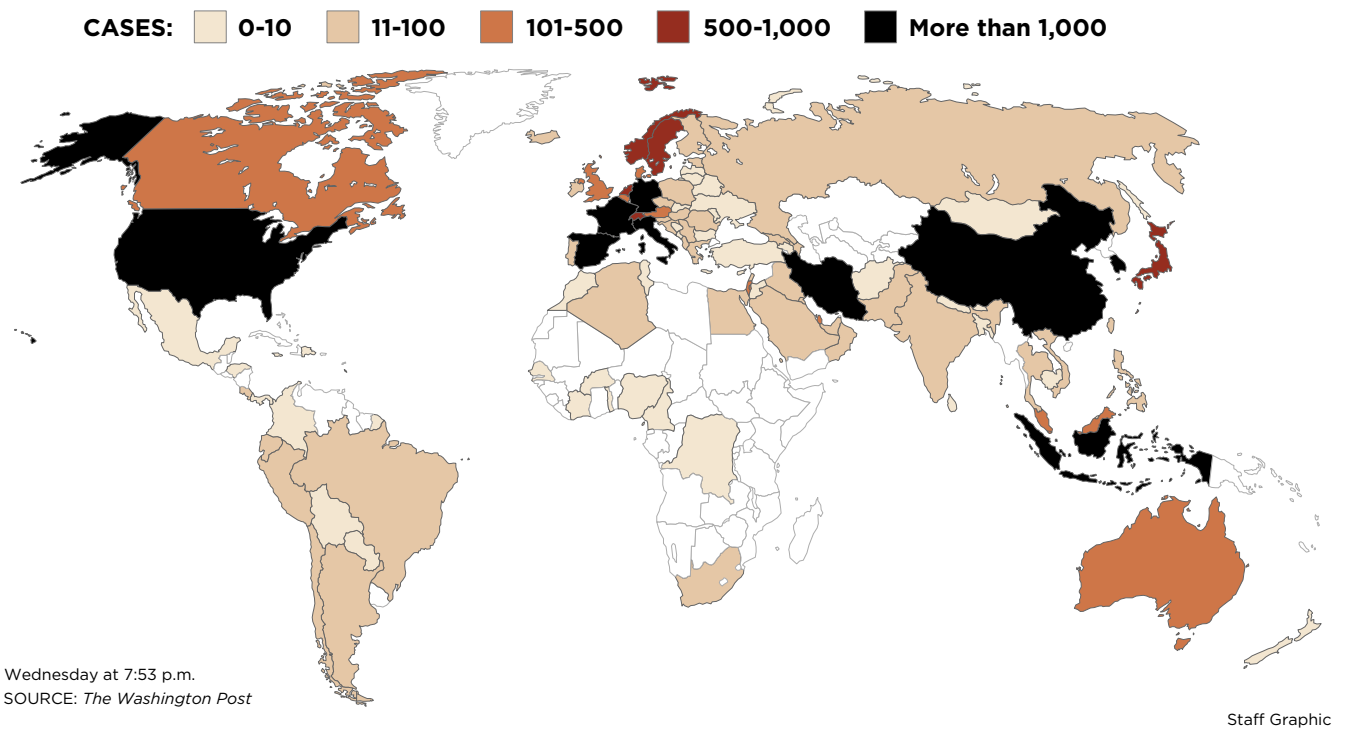
CORONAVIRUS

Travel to U.S. limited

Some flights from Europe barred

Player infected; NBA suspends season

Dallas cancels annual parade



Wednesday at 7:53 p.m.
SOURCE: *The Washington Post*

Staff Graphic

As WHO declares pandemic, Trump unveils relief package

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Taking urgent action Wednesday, President Donald Trump said he is cutting off travel from Europe to the United States and moving to ease the economic cost of a newly declared viral pandemic that is roiling global financial markets and disrupting the daily lives of Americans.

Trump said he is suspending all travel from Europe to the U.S. for 30 days beginning late Friday — at midnight — during a rare Oval Office address to the nation. After days of playing down the threat, he blamed the European Union for not acting quickly enough to address the novel coronavirus and claimed that U.S. clusters were "seeded" by European travelers.

"We made a lifesaving move with early action on China," Trump said. "Now we must take the same action with Europe."

Trump said the restrictions won't apply to the United Kingdom, and there would be exemptions for "Americans who have undergone appropriate screenings." He said the U.S. would monitor the situation to determine if travel could be reopened earlier.

The State Department followed Trump's remarks by issuing an extraordinary global health advisory cautioning U.S. citizens to "reconsider travel abroad" due to the virus and associated quarantines and restrictions.

The mounting effort to contain the virus and the financial fallout intensified on a grueling day: Communities canceled public events nationwide, universities moved to cancel in-person classes, and families grappled with the impact of disruptions to public schools.

The number of confirmed cases of the infection topped 1,000 in the U.S., and the World Health Organization declared the global crisis a pandemic, or global outbreak.

Fort Worth-based American Airlines flies to seven airports in the targeted region in Europe,

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Major events halted across the country

FROM WIRE REPORTS

MIAMI — The NBA has suspended its season "until further notice" after a Utah Jazz player tested positive Wednesday for the coronavirus, capping a day of rapid developments as the world struggled to control the fast-spreading virus.

The move by the NBA came just hours after the majority of the league's owners were leaning toward playing games without fans in arenas. Now there will be no games at all, at least for the time being.

Other developments unfolded at a breathtaking clip Wednesday. Authorities banned large gatherings in Seattle and in San Francisco — including pro baseball, basketball and soccer games — in sweeping efforts to control the coronavirus epidemic, and experts warned that the worst is yet to come.

Hours after the World Health Organization declared the virus a pandemic, or serious global outbreak, the NCAA announced that it would conduct its men's and women's Division I college

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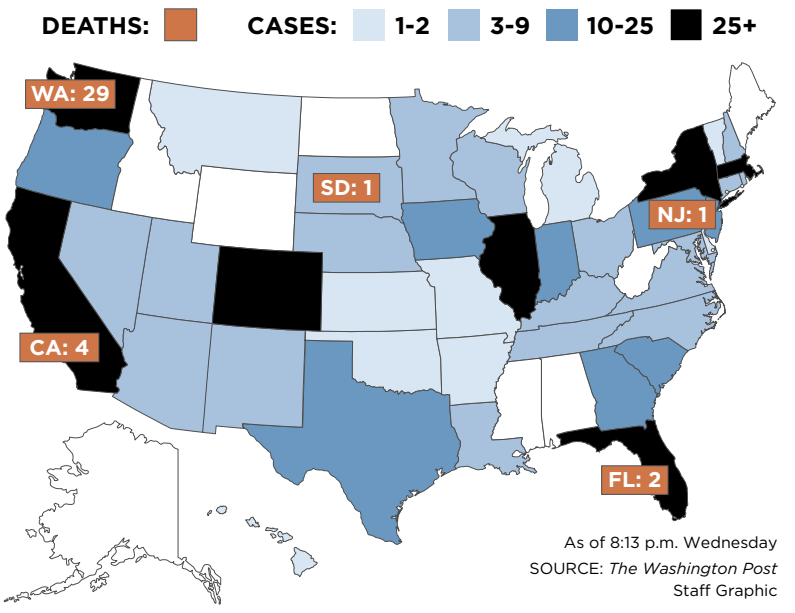

As of 8:13 p.m. Wednesday
SOURCE: *The Washington Post*
Staff Graphic

IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL to Mexico for spring break? Officials urge caution. **7A**

DALLAS has been preparing in the event that the coronavirus infects more people. **1B**

FOR A SUMMARY of coronavirus coverage in today's paper, **see Page 2A.**

NEWSLETTER: To sign up for a coronavirus updates newsletter, **join.dallasnews.com/newsletter**.

Mayor: Calling off St. Patrick's festivities the responsible decision

By HAYAT NORIMINE and CATHERINE MARFIN
Staff Writers

Dallas' St. Patrick's Parade & Festival, which had been planned for Saturday, has been canceled to avoid the further spread of coronavirus, city officials announced Wednesday.

The yearly parade on Greenville Avenue in East Dallas was expected to draw more than 125,000 people, according to the organizers, and one resident began a petition on Change.org for the city to cancel the event. About 370 people had signed the online petition as of Wednesday afternoon.

Mayor Eric Johnson said canceling the event was the responsible decision, made after speaking with public health experts and county and state officials. City officials revoked special event permits for the parade and Lower Greenville Avenue block party.

"Any decisions about any gatherings will have major economic implications for our city, and that was not lost on us," Johnson said in a news conference Wednesday evening. "Ultimately the de-

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Mostly cloudy, storms

H **85**
L **59**

Metro, back page

LATE SCORES
For results from last night's games, go to **sportsdaydfw.com/scores.**

INSIDE

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NATION & WORLD

Raids across U.S. target Mexican cartel

Federal authorities fanned across the U.S. in early-morning raids to arrest people associated with Mexico's Jalisco New Generation drug cartel. **4A**

'Remain in Mexico' policy to continue

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Trump administration may continue its "remain in Mexico" policy for asylum seekers while lower-court challenges continue. **5A**

BUSINESS

Neiman's shutting down off-price chain

Neiman Marcus is shutting down its Last Call off-price chain, resulting in about 750 job cuts over the next several months. **3B**

SEXUAL ASSAULTS

Weinstein gets 23-year prison term

Alec Tabak/New York Daily News

Women's rights attorney Gloria Allred held a news conference outside the Manhattan courthouse Wednesday after Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to a total of 23 years in prison. No arraignment date has yet been set.

Fallen mogul says he's 'totally confused' by #MeToo movement

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, TOM HAYS and JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was sentenced Wednesday to 23 years in prison after breaking his courtroom silence with a plea for mercy in which he professed to be "totally confused" by the #MeToo movement that led to the Hollywood producer's downfall.

His accusers — those who testified against him and many others who have spoken out elsewhere against the former Hollywood mogul — hailed the near-maximum punishment for his rape and criminal sex act convictions as long overdue.

The 67-year-old Weinstein, who arrived at the courthouse Wednesday in a wheelchair and was taken to a hospital after complaining of chest pains hours after the court hearing, could spend the rest of his life behind bars.

HARVEY WEINSTEIN

He was convicted last month of raping a once-aspiring actress in a New York City

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